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REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE OF CONSTITUTION,

OF THE

LONDON CORRESPONDING SOCIETY.

[PRINTED, for the USE of the MEMBERS,]

Sold by THOMAS SPENCE, No. 8, Little-
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THE REPORT, &c.

FELLOW CITIZENS,

KNOWING from experience that those who (through the depraved state of what should be the representative body) are suffered to prey on the vitals of our Country, derive the principle part of their success, in opposing an equal representation from the active circulation of falsehoods, respecting this, and other similar societies; we think it adviseable, that you should give an explicit declaration of your PRINCIPLES and WISHES, which we conceive to be as follow.

1 That all men are by nature free, equal and independent of each other.

2 That to enjoy all the advantages of civil society, it is not necessary that individuals should relinquish more of their natural independence than is required to fulfill this injunction. "Let the minority yield a friendly submission to the majority."

3 That no majority however great, can justly deprive the minority of any part of their civil rights:—wherever it is attempted, the social bond is broken, and the minority have a right to resist.

4 The civil rights of every individual are equality of voice, in the making of laws, and in the choice of persons by whom those laws are to be administered.—Equality before the law, whether in claiming its protection or submitting to its sentence. Freedom to publish his opinion, to exercise his religious worship without molestation or restriction, and to enjoy his property, subject only to such contributions as may be impartially levied for the public service.

5 Submission to any measure does not imply silence as to the propriety or impropriety thereof.

6 Every power entrusted to a magistrate, implies a responsibility for the exercise of that power.

7 The foregoing are not new, but are the original principles of English government.

8 The total departure from the principle of equality in the election of the legislative body, commonly called the House of Commons, is the chief cause why the people of Britain are now deprived of the benefit of the foregoing principles; and in place thereof, labour under a continued system of extortion and monopoly.

9. *The Corn act*—is a grievance immediately resulting from the restriction of the choice of representatives, to men of landed property; by it the price of bread in general is doubled and sometimes much more than doubled; for whenever this country happens to be blessed with an abundant season, a part of the taxes under which we groan, is applied to encourage the exportation, and advance the price of corn. Thus we pay one tax to government, to give the landed man an opportunity of laying on another. The hackneyed pretence for this act is, "the welfare of the farmer." The real intention of it is, to enable the monopolizers of farms, to pay enormous rents.

10 Game laws—Though too evidently calculated to disarm the nation, may in general be attributed to the same restriction:—by them, even the Farmer, on whose property the game is fed, is robbed of every constitutional right of a Briton, and subjected to the brutality of a Bashaw in the form of a country justice, from whom there is no appeal.

11 Excise laws—and stamp duties (and the consequent system of spies and informers) equally repugnant to the professed principles of the constitution, and most extensive in their oppression; are often introduced merely as engines of corporation influence; for in some instances, the produce of the tax does not pay the expence of collection; were the sense of the nation fairly taker, it is impossible to believe but that whatever sum might be necessary for the public service it would be raised by means less obnoxious and less expensive.

12 The mutiny act—which would never have existed, had not the bulk of the people been excluded from representation. It reflects a charge of hypocrisy on those who affect to bewail the late events in France, yet calmly view the defenders of their own country, subjected to every species of fraud, insult, and cruelty. The military excellence of true republicans, in all ages, proves it to be unnecessary. Convince a Briton, that he is about to fight for a country, in which his rights are duly consulted, and the cat of nine-tails may be burnt by the hands of the common hangman.

13 The impress service—equally cruel with the foregoing, is another effect of partial representation; it has lately been proved that the expence of this service, if applied to encrease the seamen's pay, would render impressing unnecessary; but it is more consistent with the government of a faction, to distribute the sum among the officers of corporations.

14 The ill effects of partial representation are not confined to men in private stations, we challenge contradiction when we assert that, in general, promotion, whether in the Army, Navy or Church, is the effect of parliamentary connection, and the reward of parliamentary prostitution.

15 We cannot entertain a doubt that the foregoing statement of grievances will be admitted as just by our countrymen at large, and also that an equal representation by universal and annual suffrage, would tend immediately to redress them. It remains to prove that the difficulties said to attend such a scheme are merely the chimerical inventions of interested men.

16 Let us suppose all partial corporations, (those badges of slavery) abolished; and consider the whole island as one corporation, divided into counties or cities, for the purposes of embodying and exercising militia, &c. and for electing representatives, subdivided into districts or townships as nearly as convenient in equal proportion to the number of inhabitants.

17 Allow to each district or township, one representative and let it be subdivided into Parishes, and every man entitled to a vote, be registered in the parish in which he resides. Large parishes may be subdivided into wards, or hamlets.

18. Let every voter give his vote in the parish in which he resides, let the votes be brought in writing, and called for in

succeſſion, either alphabetically, by the names of the voters, or numerically by the wards and numbers of houses;—either of these methods would prevent that ſource of riot, the practice of voting in party groups.

19. The truth of entry of every individual vote in each parish would easily be examined, and the totals of the ſeveral parishes in each diſtrict ſo easily collected, that we ſcruple not to affert a general Election might be decided with indiſputable certainty, in twelve hours.

20. In ſaying the whole iſland ſhould be conſidered as one corporation, we do not wiſh to be underſtood as recommending that diſtricts ſhould chufe their repreſentatives from diſtant parts. On the contrary we think the repreſentative ſhould always be a reſident of the diſtrict, as his character would be better known to his conſtituents. Hearsay characters are ſeldom any other than the blazonings of faction.

21. It is indiſpensible to good government that repreſentatives ſhould be paid for their ſervice to the public. The want of open and honourable reward, retards the exertion of laudable characters and ſubjects the nation to the fraudulent and deluſive practices of mock patriots.

22. To those who are convinced of the propriety of the fore-going ideas and only ask, how ſhall we attain the practice of them? We anſwer: *associate*. By ſo doing you will better correct and strengthen each others opinions on the ſubject of liberty, and eventually abash the tools of corrupt influence and lawleſs power. Effects which are not to be expected from the vague and defultory exertion of individual opinions.

Having thus ſtated what we conceive to be the ſentiments of the Society, we recommend that the members ſhall meet in diſtrictions, conſiſting as nearly as convenient of thirty members each, and that the management of its affairs, be vested in one COMMITTEE OF DELEGATES one SELECT COMMITTEE and one COUNCIL, ſubject to REFERENCE TO THE DIVISIONS and TRIAL BY JURY, as more particularly deſined in the following ſections.

SECTION I. Form of admiffion and duty of a Member.

1. Each Candidate for admiffion into this Society ſhall be proposed by a member, who ſhall either belong to the diſtriction, in which the proposal is made, or be personally known as a member of this Society, to two members of ſuch diſtriction.

2. The Secretary ſhall enter the name, reſidence and occupation of the Candidate, together with the proposer's name, and number, in the minute book of the diſtriction, and the President ſhall put the following question to the proposer.

Are you well acquainted with the Candidate you propose, with his means of life, and his political principles, and are you well auſſured that his general character is ſuch as will not be disgraceful to this Society?

3. If the proposer ſhall answer the foregoing question in the affirmative, the President ſhall demand of the Diſtriction, whether any member has any objection to the candidate.

4. If no objection ſatisfactory to the diſtriction ſhall be made, the President ſhall put the following questions to the candidate.

Are you convinced that every man who has attained to years discretion, is in possession of his reason, and not disqualified by crimes ought to have a vote for a Representative, and not more than one vote?

Are you convinced that the representation ought to be divided as nearly as possible in proportion to the number of electors?

Are you convinced that the election of Representatives of the People ought to be Annual?

Will you by all justifiable means endeavour to promote a Reform in the Parliament of this country, agreeable to the principles which you have now professed?

5. The Candidate having answered the foregoing questions in the affirmative, shall be declared a member, and shall receive a ticket on which shall be endorsed his name, and the time to which his contribution is paid.—And another ticket on which shall be written in large figures the number of his division; and beneath that, his own number in the division.

6. It shall be at his option, to wear the latter ticket in a visible situation in any meeting of this society, and it is particularly adviseable that he should wear it in general meetings, and keep with the members of his own division.

7. Every member shall pay 6d. at the meeting of his division, next before the first Thursday in each Calendar Month, or after that rate for so long as he shall think proper to renew his ticket, to defray the expences of this society, and of the room in which his division meets.

8. The last article shall not preclude any member from furnishing a larger contribution, as he may judge proper, either periodically or occasionally:—but such extra contribution shall not give the member any additional power.

9. It is the duty of every member to study concord, and for that purpose to moderate his own passions, particularly his personal attachments and aversions.

10. To make himself well acquainted with the principles, constitution and laws of this society, and to circulate a knowledge of the same to the utmost of his ability.

11. To attend his own division as constantly as possible, and particularly on the meeting next before the first Thursday in each Calendar month.

12. During the discussion of any question, it is the duty of every member to give a close and candid attention to the opinions which are given on it, and also to give his own opinion freely, unless it shall correspond exactly with one already given.

13. In giving his vote, which is the declaration of his final opinion, he ought to be guided solely by his own conviction, totally disregarding the chance of his being in a minority or majority, even though he should stand alone.

14. When decision is taken by a shew of hands every member shall give his vote silently, by shewing one hand: The practice of shewing both hands, or of calling all! all! or other such exclamations are tumultuous, indecent, and utterly unwarrantable.

15. In case his division shall be dispersed by persecution, he shall use every endeavour to rally the members of it, but if unsuccessful in this attempt, he may then join any division which may persevere in meeting.

16. To habituate himself both in and out of this Society, to an orderly and amicable manner of reasoning, but especially to observe the following Rules of

O R D E R.

1. That no Member ought to be interrupted while speaking, unless for the purpose of calling him to order.

2. All noise is interruption; whether intended to express applause or censure; approbation may be expressed by holding up a hand.

3. To attribute the conduct or opinion of any member to factious combination, or other improper motive, is disorderly, as are also all invectives and declamatory remarks.

4. The foregoing is not intended to curtail the power of accusation, agreeable to the XIth Section of this Constitution, but only that such accusation shall not interfere with any other question.

5. No member shall be allowed to speak longer than ten minutes at one time, nor more than twice to one question, except to explain or retract.

6. No member shall be allowed to stile himself, or any other, by any party name, whether intended to convey respect or disrespect.

7. All political appellations which do not in their immediate interpretation convey an idea of political sentiment or situation, are party names. The following do not fall under this objection, as will appear by their explanations.

Republican.—One who wishes to promote the general welfare of his country.

Democrat.—A supporter of the rights and power of the people.

Aristocrat.—One who wishes to promote the interest of a few at the expence of many.

Royalist.—Among the ignorant part of mankind signifies, a person attached to regal government: among artful courtiers it is a veil for their own aristocracy.

Loyalist.—A supporter of the constitution of his country.

Citizen.—The ancient appellation given to the members of free States.

Subject.—can only with propriety, be applied to a member of a State, whose government has been instituted by foreign conquest or the prevalence of a domestic faction.

17. Persons attempting to trespass on order, under pretence of shewing zeal, courage, or any other motive, are to be suspected. A noisy disposition is seldom a sign of courage, and extreme zeal, is often a cloak of treachery.

SECTION II.—The organization and power of a Division,

1. Each Division shall meet once in a week, on any evening, in the week except Thursday, and Sunday.

2. The hour and place of meeting shall be at the convenience of each division, but must be announced to the constituted bodies.

3. Each Division shall elect from its own members, a President, Vice-president, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Delegate, and Sub-delegate.

4. Each Division shall be furnished with three books, (viz.) one to bear the number of the Division,—A similar book, to be called the Supernumerary book of the same division,—and a third for entering minutes.

5. No Division book shall contain more than 30 effective names:—subject to variation as hereafter mentioned.

6. Members admitted after the Division shall amount to 30, shall be entered in the Supernumerary-book—but not before.

7. As soon as the members entered in the Supernumerary-book, shall amount to 16, they shall be entitled to a number as a new Division: They shall determine the time and place of their future meeting; they shall receive a Supernumerary-book, and a minute-book, and a new supernumerary-book shall be delivered to the original Division.

8. Members entered in any Supernumerary-book while less than 16, shall be entitled to vote, and, in every respect be considered as members of the Division to which such Supernumerary-book shall belong.

9. No new member shall have a vote the same sitting, in which he is admitted; nor transferred member the same sitting in which he is transferred.

10. Each Division shall be allowed one shilling and six-pence per week for rent, furniture, &c.

11. Every member shall have liberty to introduce one stranger provided such member shall answer that the sentiments of the stranger are similar to ours, and the same stranger shall not be introduced more than twice, except for the purpose of admission as a member.

12. If two or more Divisions shall agree to meet at the same time and place, the following rules shall be observed.

13. One Supernumerary-book shall serve the whole meeting; which shall be kept by the Secretary of the oldest division present.

14. No new member shall be entered in the Supernumerary-book, while any Division present is short of thirty members.

15. One President and vice-president shall serve the whole meeting.

16. Each Division alternately shall elect from its own members, the President and vice-President, and the Assistant Secretary of each Division, alternately, shall act as door-keeper.

17. They shall not intermix their Elections of Delegates or sub-Delegates, Secretaries, or Assistant Secretaries, nor the reports of their opinions on referred questions.

18. Members entered in the Supernumerary-book shall be entitled to vote, and in every respect considered as members of the oldest division present.

19. In all Elections, and Decisions, of referred questions, the President shall take the decision of the oldest division first.

20. The term oldest Division is not meant to convey any idea of precedence; it is to be understood, that Division, which shall bear the smallest number, though it may have been formed later than one bearing a greater.

21. The Delegates and Secretaries of Divisions so meeting, shall not sit together, but dispersed as nearly as convenient at equal distances.

22. Over the seat of the President in each meeting of this Society, shall be suspended a label with these words, BEWARE OF ORATORS.

23. In case of persecution and that the means provided by, the VIIth, VIIIth, and IXth, Sections of this constitution, should not produce the effect of re-establishing a representative body of this Society for two weeks successively, every division shall have power to elect four persons whose powers shall be the same as the four officers of the Committee of Delegates.

24. The sole object of those four persons, shall be the re-establishment of the Representative Body, and they shall report progress weekly, and be weekly subject to revocation.

25. If two or more Divisions shall make the above-mentioned election at the same time, the persons so chosen shall act in conjunction.

S E C T I O N III. Mode of Election.

1. The ordinary election of Delegate and Sub-delegate shall be on the sitting next before the first Thursday in each Calendar Month, at which sitting no visitor shall be admitted.

2. No member shall be allowed to offer himself as a candidate, nor to propose any other, nor solicit votes for himself, or another on pain of expulsion.

3. Every member except such as have served as Delegates for the two preceding months, such as have not been admitted a fortnight and such as are members of any constituted body, or excused by a previous consent of the Division, shall be considered as eligible.

4. On the evening of election, each member shall bring with him a piece of paper, on which shall be written the name of the member whom he wishes to be the Delegate, and beneath that, the name and number of the voter.

5. Such vote shall be given to the president without previous communication to any other member.

6. Precisely at nine o'clock, after which no vote shall be received, the president shall read the votes aloud,—the Secretary shall enter in the minute-book the names of all the members nominated, and against each, the numbers of the members who have voted for him.

7. The President shall read the Secretary's entry aloud, and if no error be discovered in it, shall declare which ever of the nominated persons shall have the greatest number of votes to be the Delegate, and the next greatest the Sub-delegate.

8. Upon any equality of votes, the decision shall be by lot.

9. The Election of Secretary and Assistant Secretary, shall be on the same night, and conducted in the same manner.

10. Ever member, except the Delegate and Sub-delegate, is eligible as Secretary, or Assistant Secretary.

11. The Election of President, and Vice-President, may be by open nomination, and shew of hands.

SECTION IV.—Duty of President, and vice-President.

1. The preservation of order though a duty of every member, is particularly so of the President.

2. He shall take especial care to protect any member from interruption while speaking, provided such member shall confine his discourse to the matter in question, and not exceed ten minutes in delivering it.

3. If any member (thinking the president remiss) shall call another to order, that call shall not be repeated by any other member. The President if aware of the reason of such call, shall give his opinion on the point of order; if not aware of any sufficient reason for the interruption, he shall require the member calling to order, to explain his reasons.

4. The general call of Silence! is the exclusive duty of the President. Any other member calling silence is disorderly.

5. If he shall find it convenient, he may, previous to putting any question, recapitulate impartially the arguments which have been offered on it, at which time, and not before, he may give his own opinion.

6. He shall take especial care that the members be satisfied, that the monthly account of the principal Treasurer, contains a receipt for as much money, as has been raised in the Division or Divisions present.

7. Previous to quitting the chair, he shall read the minutes as entered by the Secretary, and sign them.

8. If any part of them shall appear to him to be erroneously entered, he shall notice the impropriety in the minute book.

9. He shall, on no account, continue in the chair, later than than eleven o'clock, P. M. after that hour, the persons present are a private company, and not a Division of this Society.

10. The Vice-President shall be placed in that part of the Room which is opposite to the President.

11. His duty is to take care that members shall not be imperfectly acquainted with the business in agitation, in consequence of their being remote from the President, and that they shall not fall into private and disorderly conversations.

SECTION V—Secretary and Assistant Secretary.

1. The Secretary of each Division shall also be Treasurer of the same. He shall remain in office (misconduct excepted) one Month and be re-eligible.

2. He shall open the business of each meeting, by taking election of a President, and vice-President, for which purpose he shall not wait longer than 15 minutes after the appointed time.

3. He shall then give the minutes of the last meeting to the President to be read, including the former Presidents, objections, if any, and they shall then be adjusted.

4. He shall enter in the minute book, every motion which

shall be made and seconded, also the decision on it, with the numbers of votes, both for and against.

5. He shall keep the Division, and Supernumerary-books, and receive the monthly payments.

6. If any member default in payment, he shall give notice of the same, at the first meeting, after the first Thursday in each Calender month; and, if no other member is willing to call on the defaulter, it shall be his business.

7. After the President, he shall sign all Resolutions of the Division, and all certificates of election.

8. All certificates shall specify the number of votes as given. The word unanimous shall never be used.

9. At the meeting next before the election of Delegate, the Secretary shall read a list of the names of such members as are ineligible by this constitution, to which shall be added the names of such members as may give reasons satisfactory to the Division for wishing to be excused serving that office.

10. If any member shall default in payment for one month successively, without a cause, satisfactory to the Division be assigned, the Secretary shall notice the default opposite to his name in the minute book, and his number shall be given to the next admitted member.

11. If he cannot attend his duty in his Division, he shall give notice to the Assistant Secretary, and send the books to him, or to the Division.

12. The Assistant Secretary shall to the utmost of his power assist the Secretary in his duty, particularly in calling on defaulters.

13. When the Secretary is present in a Division, the Assistant Secretary shall act as door-keeper; the duty of that station is explained by Sect. II. Art. XI.

14. In the absence of Secretary, or Assistant Secretary, the meeting shall appoint another door-keeper.

15. In case of removal or violent dispersion of a Division it shall be the business of the Secretary, and Assistant Secretary, to give notice to the members of a new place and time of meeting.

SECTION VI.—Delegate and sub-Delegate

1. Every individual Delegate is the immediate servant of the Division which he represents, and his functions cannot be annulled or suspended, but by their consent, unless expelled the Society by trial of Jury, agreeable to the XIIth. Section.

2. While a Delegate, he is not eligible to any other station or office; either by his Division or any constituted body.

3. His duty is to attend the meeting of Delegates and assist in the performance of their collective duty as hereafter described.

4. To attend his own Division duly and faithfully to report proceedings of the Committee of Delegates.

5. To compare the account of the principal Treasurer, with that of the Treasurer of his own Division, and to remark to his Division whether they agree or no.

6. On all questions which may occur in the committee of Delegates, he shall vote according to the instructions of his constituents.

7. On any question which has not been discussed and decided

by his constituents, he shall vote according to his own judgment for the interest of the Society.

8. If on any question which his constituents have decided, new arguments should arise which he may think likely to change their opinion, he shall have liberty to vote for an adjournment of one week; subject however, to the judgment of the Division, whether his doubts were real or fictitious.

9. If he cannot attend the meeting of Delegates, he shall give notice as early as possible to the Sub-delegate.

10. The Sub-delegate having received such notice, shall act as Delegate.

11. The Sub-delegate shall always be admissible in the Committee of Delegates as a visitor.

12. While present, as a visitor, he must be silent, but may take notes.

13. The Sub-delegate attending the Committee before the Delegate, though without notice, shall act as Delegate for that sitting whenever the Delegate is more than ten minutes later than the appointed time.

14. If the Delegate should vacate his seat, the Sub-delegate shall succeed him for the remainder of the month, and another Sub-delegate shall be chosen.

SECTION VII.—the Committee of Delegates.

1. The Committee of Delegates is the representative and legislative body of this society.

2. Their duty is indivisible, and the representation shall not be impaired by any appointment, either of themselves collectively, or of any other constituted body, which may subject the members thereof to be absent from their meeting, or to be parties concerned in any subject under their discussion.

3. Not less than Three-fourths of their whole number shall be a quorum, except in case of persecution.

4. There shall be no disparity or dissimilitude between the members, by offices of Presidency, or Secretaryship.

5. Every Committee of Delegates shall, in the last Thursday in each Calender month, elect four persons to serve the offices of President, Vice-president, Secretary, and Assistant Secretary in the next ensuing Committee.

6. Members of the electing Committee are eligible as officers of the ensuing, and officers of electing shall be re-eligible.

7. This election is their final act, collectively; individually, they must report at the ensuing meetings of their constituents, which done, they invariably cease to be Delegates; and shall not be re-eligible for two succeeding months.

8. The duty of the four officers abovementioned, is similar to those bearing the same names in a Division; but they shall have no vote in the Committee, nor give any opinion, unless requested, except on questions of order.

9. After forming the Committee, by receiving and entering their certificates, they shall each be subject to dismission, if the then present Committee should think proper to appoint others.

10. The entries in the minute-book shall be signed at least by two of them, and the minutes of each meeting shall be read in the ensuing meeting, and open to the inspection of every individual Delegate.

11. In case of any persecution which may be brought on this society, they shall provide a place for the meeting of Delegates, and give notice thereof to as many Delegates as possible.

12. Such meeting not being fewer than One-third of the Delegates, shall have all the power of a Committee of Delegates, but shall on no pretence enlarge the term of their Delegation.

13. The especial object of such meeting, shall be to see that the executive powers are not negligent or dilatory in rallying the dispersed Divisions, and renewing a complete representative Body.

14. The duty of the Committee of Delegates is to direct the conduct of the executive powers in all matters which do not require secrecy or expedition.

15. To examine the conduct of the executive powers, whether it be agreeable to their own directions, or the directions of any former Committee of Delegates,

16. If the executive power shall have done any thing without consent of a Committee of Delegates, it shall, on discovery, be the business of the then Committee of Delegates, to examine whether the act was proper, and whether the want of such authority was justifiable, by the necessity of secrecy or dispatch.

17. Their consent to any thing proposed to be done, or their approbation of any thing which has been done by the Executive Powers shall be to the latter a complete justification ; except such consent or approbation shall be obtained by misrepresentation of facts:

18. They shall take special notice of the conduct of every individual member, both of the select committee and the council, and if they shall perceive any personal opposition to prevail between any two members of those bodies, they shall take the first opportunity to remove them both, rather than endanger the spreading of discord.

19. For the purpose of electing members of the select Committee, and special Committees, they shall always have a complete list of the names and numbers of the select Committee then existing.

20. They may enter in their minute-book, remarks on the conduct, whether moral or political, of any member of the select Committee, or of the council, or any person eligible to those stations.

21. If the executive powers for the purpose of obtaining their approbation, shall communicate any thing which a majority of the Delegates shall approve as necessary to be secretly done; the whole Committee of Delegates are bound to secrecy.

22. Their election of One-third of the council, and of the select Committee shall be conducted in the same manner as the election of a Delegate.

(43)

SECTION VIII—the Select Committee.

1. Shall not exceed the whole, not less than half the number of the Committee of Delegates.
2. Every individual member of this Committee, is the servant of the whole society, and not responsible to any particular Division.
3. They shall at their first institution, be numbered by lot, from one, to the number of their total.
4. On the last Thursday in each month, one-third of them shall be put the vote of the Committee of Delegates, either to be re-elected or others appointed in their place.
viz. 1st. Month, No. 1, 4, 7, 10. } and so on adding
2d. ditto. No. 2, 5, 8, 11. } three to the last
3d. ditto, No. 3, 6, 9, 12. } number.
5. No person shall be eligible who has not been a member of this society three months.
6. No member shall be allowed to change his number.
7. Their appointments of presidency or Secretaryship shall be from their own members, and at their own discretion as to permanence.
8. No member of this Committee shall be admitted until he has answered in the affirmative, the following question, which shall be put by the officers of the Committee of Delegates.

Do you promise that you will not relinquish the station which you are about to take in this Society, on account of any persecution which may be brought on it. That you will persevere in meeting the select Committee, and to the utmost of your power, encourage every other member of this Society, to fulfil the duty of his respective station?

THEIR OFFICE IS,

1. Preparatory as they may be directed, either collectively partially or individually by the Committee of Delegates, or the council.
2. Referential as to any matter adopted by the Committee of Delegates, or the Council, or by both, which they may judge improper.
3. All intended publications of this society shall, previous to being printed, undergo their collective examination,
4. One third of their whole number shall be a quorum.

SECTION IX—the Council.

1. Shall be composed of one Treasurer, one principal Secretary, and not less than four Assistant Secretaries.
2. They shall be numbered from one to their total, and re-eligible at the same time, and in the same manner as the select Committee.
3. The Treasurer shall on the last Thursday in each Calendar Month give to the Committee of Delegates, a monthly account of the total Sum which he shall have received from each division in the course of the instant month.
4. He shall also give to the select Committee at their meeting next before the last Thursday in March, June, September and December, a quarterly account of all Monies received by him on account of this Society, and all Disbursements.
5. His Quarterly account with the Remarks of the Select

Committee, if any, shall be laid before the Committee of Delegates, on the last Thursday in March, June, September, and December; to be by them examined and reported to the Divisions.

6. The principal Secretary shall record all Laws which shall be made by this Society, which shall be printed annually.

7. He shall prepare all miscellaneous correspondence, namely, all such as does not fall within the Department of one or other of the assistant Secretaries, and all copies of such Correspondence for the use of the Divisions.

8. Each Assistant Secretary shall have his particular Department of correspondence assigned to him.

9. As soon as any letter is received, it shall be the business of the Secretary to whose department it shall belong, to prepare an answer.

10. The draught of the answer, shall be first submitted to the Select Committee.

11. It shall next, with the objections and proposed amendments of the select Committee, if any, be laid before the Committee of Delegates.

12 If the committee of Delegates shall think necessary to order any alterations, they shall signify the same in writing, signed by two of their officers.

13. Every member of the council shall be really acquainted with every transaction of this society, however secret.

14. Each member of the council shall have a complete list of the members of ever division of this society, with their residences, which list he shall deposit to the best of his judgment in a place of safety.

15. Collectively, the council shall have a power of reference to the divisions, as to any proposal adopted by the committee of Delegates, or select committee.

16. It shall be the business of the council to make enquiry for proper places for Divisions to meet; and to recommend transfers of members for the purpose of forming new divisions or, strengthening such as may decay.

17. All letters of this society shall be signed at least by two of the council, who shall also sign the Copy kept.

18. All letters sent with consent of the Delegates, and Select Committee, shall be signed " for the London Corresponding Society." All letters sent without such consent shall be signed " for the Council of the London Corresponding Society."

19. No letter shall be sent without previous consent of the council collectively, and not less than two-thirds shall be a quorum.

20. For any special purpose, they may require the assistance of any member of this society not being a Delegate or Sub-delegate

SECTION X, General Articles including Reference.

1. Every proposal which shall be severally approved by a majority of the Delegates, of the Select committee, and, of the council shall be adopted and considered as an Act of this Society, and remain in force as such, until rescinded either, by the concurrence of similar majorities or by reference to the divisions.

2. The concurrence of such majorities shall be sufficient to degrade any member of the Select committee or of the council, pre-

vious to the ordinary period of election ; as shall also, a reference to the divisions ; provided always, that the party objected to, shall have full opportunity of exculpating himself.

3. The concurrence of a majority of each of the three constituted bodies, shall be sufficient to alter the Vth. Article of the II. Section, by making the number of members required to form a Division more or less, provided there shall always be a number ascertained, beyond which, no member shall be entered in any Division-book, and provided that the number required for instituting a Division, shall always be one more than half the number, at which a Division shall be accounted full.

4. If it shall appear beneficial to the Society, to institute a new Division, in a place where a sufficient number of members cannot at first be obtained, or to continue an old Division, which may have decreased below the number required. The constituted bodies shall have power, notwithstanding the deficiency of number to make the usual allowance for rent, &c. but not longer than three months, unless specially authorized by reference to the Divisions; and provided there shall never be more than one third of the whole number of Divisions of this description.

5. Not more than one half of the select Committee shall at any time be detached on special Committees, either by the council, or the Delegates,

6. Referred questions shall never be accompanied by deputations. They shall come in the same form before each division; namely a copy of the question, and of such remarks, as the parties concerned shall think proper to make on it.

7 The remarks shall be in numbered articles, free from declamation or panegyric.

8 On all questions intended for reference, each of the constituted bodies shall have an opportunity of sending out its remarks; but for this purpose the whole of them shall not be allowed longer than one week.

9 If a question be referred at the instance of an individual, he shall provide as many copies of the question, and of his own remarks as may be necessary to supply all the divisions.

10 Any individual providing such copies, and demanding a reference, shall not be denied.

11. If a question be referred at the instance of a division, or by one or more of the constituted bodies, the copies shall be provided by the respective Secretaries.

12 The report on a referred question shall not be required in less than two weeks, from the Thursday on which the copies of question and remarks compleat, shall have been given to the Delegates.

13 The Delegates having received such copies, shall communicate them in the next meeting of their respective divisions. Each division may then discuss the question, but shall not decide it until the next meeting, at soonest:

14 No member shall be allowed to speak on a referred question, except in the division of which he is a member:

15 The expences of all the constituted bodies, shall be paid from the general stock,

[16]
SECTION XI.—Of Accusation and Trial.

1. If any member shall think another unworthy of being a member of this society, or that he has acted in any degree improperly, he shall offer his accusation in writing, signed by himself, in the Division of which the accused is a member.

2. Every accusation shall state the law on which it is grounded.

3. If the decision of the division shall be in favor of the accused, the trial shall go no farther; if not, the accuser shall give a statement of the case, in writing, to the Delegate of his own division, to be laid before the committee of Delegates.

4. No vote or resolution touching any matter of accusation shall pass in any division, except that of the accused, (as mentioned in the last Article) nor in any of the constituted Bodies.

5. The Delegates having received the case, shall elect four persons, not of their own body, nor of the division, or divisions concerned, to act as President, Secretary, Vice-President, and Assistant-Secretary in the ensuing trial.

6. They shall also, issue notices to each division, except those of which the accuser or accused are members; mentioning the time and place of trial, and the four persons whom they have appointed to superintend it, and requiring each of them, to return one Juryman.

7. Each division shall return of its own members, one Juryman, by lot; but none of the four persons appointed to superintend the trial, nor any member of any constituted body, shall be returnable.

8. Every Juryman so drawn, and failing to attend at the appointed time, shall forfeit two shillings and sixpence, except in case of sickness; as shall also, each superintendent.

9. The superintendants shall, by lot, take twelve names out of the whole number present, who shall be the jury for that trial unless the accused object, which he may do to four of them, but, not more.

10. The accuser and accused shall each be allowed one Assistant, at their own choice.

11. The President shall read the accusation, and call on the accuser to produce his evidence,

13. The evidence on the part of the accuser being closed, the accused may call his evidence,

12. During the time each witness is giving his evidence, he may be cross examined by the Jury, the President, the Accused, the Accuser, or either of their Assistants.

14. The evidence being closed, the Accused and his Assistant shall be allowed to comment on it, and make his defence; but the cross examination shall be deemed sufficient on the part of the accuser.

15. If the President shall think proper, he may recapitulate the principal points of the evidence, and comment on them;

16. The Jury shall give their verdict in writing, signed by all their names:

17. If the Jury shall not within two hours agree, that the Accused is guilty, he shall be acquitted.

18. The issue of the trial shall be reported to the Committee of Delegates, and by them to the divisions:

* * * The I, and II, Sections are recommen-

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